

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant has carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and a telephone interview with the Examiner conducted on November 6, 2006 between the Examiner and the Applicant's agent, Andrew Ralston, Reg. No. 55,560. Based thereon, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicant originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for these amendments can be found in FIGURE 2 and ¶ [0032] of the specification. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0085578 A1 to Dell, *et al.* in view of U.S. patent No. 6,667,983 B1 to Lo, *et al.* and U.S. Publication No. 2001/0050916 to Krishna, *et al.* The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the cited combination does not teach each and every element of the claims.

In the November 6 interview, the Examiner asserted that the language of Claims 1, 8 and 15 as amended in the Applicant's June 22, 2006 Response, "each of said packet FIFOs in each of said subsets being coupled to a *corresponding* one of said m inputs" was ambiguous. (Emphasis added.) The Examiner argued that the phrase could be interpreted to mean that each packet FIFO (Fig. 2, elements 210, 212, and 214, *e.g.*) of the m subsets (FIG. 2, elements 210, 212, 214; 220,

222, 224; and 230, 232, 234, *e.g.*), is connected to the *same* input. The Examiner indicated that claim language describing that each packet in a packet FIFO in a subset is coupled to a *different* input would distinguish Claims 1, 8 and 15 from the cited combination. Therefore, the cited combination fails to teach each and every element of the claims as amended herein.

In spite of the Examiner's assertion to the contrary, the limitation "each of said packet FIFOs in each of said subsets being coupled to a corresponding one of said m inputs" already *explicitly* includes the meaning that each packet FIFO is coupled to a *different* one of the m inputs. Not only is the phrase explicitly defined in Fig. 2 and ¶ [0032] of the Specification, but at least 800 US patents issued since 1976 include at least one claim having the limitation "each ...coupled to a corresponding one." A cursory review of several of such patents shows the phrase to be used as supported in the Application and argued to the Examiner in the November 6 conversation, *i.e.*, that each element of a group is coupled to a *different* one of corresponding elements. Clearly, the phrasing of the limitation has a well-established and unambiguous meaning in the practice of the Office. Thus, there is no ambiguity of the limitation as amended in the June 22 response.

In spite of the clarity of the claim language prior to the amendments herein, the Applicant has amended the language of Claims 1, 8 and 15 to expedite prosecution and put the claims in better condition for appeal. The limitation as amended provides "each of said packet FIFOs in each of said subsets being coupled to a *different* one of said m inputs." (Emphasis added.) Because the language of these claims as amended in the June 22 Response includes the meaning that each packet FIFO in a subset of packet FIFOs is coupled to a *different* one of each

input, the amendments herein do not change the scope of the claims, and therefore no new search is required.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Claims 1-20 are nonobvious over the cited references under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow issuance thereof.

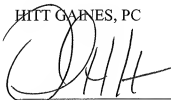
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant now sees all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20.

The Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GARNES, PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DHH', is written over a horizontal line.

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